

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Stephen P. Sinnott, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, today announced the unsealing of an indictment returned on November 9, 2005, by a federal grand jury sitting in Madison, charging Paul A. Horvatic, DOB: 6/3/1973, of Superior, Wisconsin, Paul Letsos, DOB: 1/30/1948, of Superior, Jesse M. Rodriguez, DOB: 3/26/1980, of St. Paul, Minnesota, and Isreal Flores, DOB: 1/14/1974, of St. Paul, Minnesota, with conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute at least 500 grams of methamphetamine. The indictment resulted from an ongoing investigation into methamphetamine dealing in the Superior, Wisconsin and Duluth, Minnesota areas. If convicted, each defendant faces a mandatory minimum of 10 years in prison and a maximum penalty of life in prison.

According to the indictment, Horvatic, Letsos, Rodriguez, and Flores conspired with each other, with Quince Wright, and with others, to possess with intent to distribute at least 500 grams of methamphetamine in the Western District of Wisconsin between July 2002 and January 15, 2005. The indictment alleges that as part of the conspiracy, the defendants transported methamphetamine from St. Paul, Minnesota, to the Superior area for distribution, or utilized couriers to transport the

methamphetamine for them.

The indictment further alleges that Horvatich maintained two residences in Superior at 5208 East 1st Street and at 1103 Fisher Avenue, where he stored methamphetamine and distributed methamphetamine. In addition, Horvatich rented hotel rooms in Superior for Rodriguez and Flores when they came to Superior from St. Paul to distribute methamphetamine or to collect payment for methamphetamine previously distributed to others.

Co-conspirator Wright is alleged to have provided firearms to members of the conspiracy but is not named as a defendant in this indictment. He was indicted separately on August 24, 2005. He entered a guilty plea before Chief U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb on November 2, 2005, during which he admitted that he conspired with Horvatich, Rodriguez, and others to distribute methamphetamine and also admitted to traveling to St. Paul to pick up methamphetamine from Rodriguez for re-sale in Superior. Wright admitted that along with Horvatich, he distributed between 75 and 100 pounds of methamphetamine in the Western District of Wisconsin. Wright is scheduled to be sentenced on January 4, 2006.

Letsos is scheduled to make an initial appearance before U.S. Magistrate Judge Stephen Crocker today at 2:30 p.m. Horvatich is scheduled to be arraigned on November 21, 2005, at 2:30 p.m.. Rodriguez and Flores remain fugitives.

This matter was investigated by the Superior Police Department and the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation-Narcotics Bureau.

You are advised that a charge is merely an accusation and that a defendant is

presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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